

Message Text

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DEPT FOR AF/C

AID FOR AFR/CAWA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CT, US

SUBJECT: DALTON GRIFFITH VISIT

1. AFR/CAWA DIRECTOR DALTON GRIFFITH'S SIX DAY VISIT TO BANGUI FROM NOVEMBER 15-20 WAS A NOTABLE EVENT IN US-CAR BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRESIDENT BOKASSA, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON A STATE VISIT TO CHINA, PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE INTERIOR NGAI-VOUETO TO TAKE CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS. NGAI VOUETO PRESIDED OVER OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DINNER AND WAS PRINCIPAL GUEST AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER IN GRIFFITH'S HONOR. HE ARRANGED FOR FORMAL MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HALL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT THE PRESIDENCY. SUPPLEMENTARY WORKING SESSIONS WERE HELD AT MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE AND PLANNING. VISIT WAS FEATURE NEWS ON STATE RADIO FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND BOTH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS WERE CARRIED IN EXTENSO. ALL MEETINGS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY AND FRIENDSHIP.

2. GRIFFITH, ASSISTED BY AID/YAOUNDE TEAM, REVIEWED WIDE
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RANGE OF PROJECTS PUT FORWARD BY GOCAR. GRIFFITH

MADE CLEAR TO GOCAR OFFICIALS SECTORTS OF PRIORITY CONCERN TO AID UNDER CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES, AND FOCUS OF OUR EFFORTS ON RURAL POOR. GOCAR RESPONDED BY LIMITING ITS PROJECT PROPOSALS TO THESE AREAS. TEAM INDICATED EXPECTATION THAT WE WOULD BE MOVING FORWARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH SIGNING OF OUHAM HEALTH PROJECT, AIP AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES AND FY 77 COMMITMENT TO GRIMARI SEED MULTIPLICATION PROJECT. TEAM ALSO IDENTIFIED VARIOUS AREAS WHERE FUTURE PROJECTS SEEM FEASIBLE AND FOR SOME OF WHICH PIDS WILL SOON BE PREPARED. FOLLOWING PROJECT IDEAS WERE DISCUSSED WITH GOCAR IN THIS CONTEXT:

I. AGRICULTURE

- (A) MULTIPLICATION AND EXTENSION OF ADAPTED AND IMPROVED VARIETIES OF FOOD CROP SEED;
- (B) EXPANDED SMALL-FARMER FISH PRODUCTION;
- (C) ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK TRAINING INSTITUTE AT BOUAR.

II. HEALTH

- (A) EXTENSIONS OF LOW-COST INTEGRATED RURAL HEALTH SERVICES INTO PROVINCES OTHER THAN OUHAM;
- (B) PARA MEDICAL TRAINING

III. EDUCATION

- (A) SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL REFORM WHICH AIMS AT PROVIDING RURAL POPULATION WITH KNOWLEDGE WHICH IS RELEVANT TO THEIR NEEDS:
- (B) UTILIZATION OF RADIO FOR RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT;
- (C) SYSTEMATIC PARTICIPANT TRAINING FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IV. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

- (A) SCHOOL AND RURAL VILLAGE WELLS
- (B) AERO-MAGNETIC SURVEY OF BANGUI ANOMALY PROVIDING DATA FOR AN ON-THE-GROUND GEODETIC SURVEY AND MINERAL RESOURCES INVENTORY TO BE MADE BY UNDP.

3. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SOME GOCAR PROJECTS DISCUSSED WHICH, WHILE IN PRIORITY SECTORS, WOULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US. HEALTH MINISTRY HAMMERED AWAY AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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URGENT NEED FOR 250 BED HOSPITAL AND 200 BED CLINIC IN BANGUI, AND GRIFFITH WAS TAKEN ON EXTENSIVE VISIT TO EXISTING OVERCROWDED HOSPITAL FACILITIES. THESE ARE OBVIOUSLY HIGH-VISIBILITY PROJECTS TO WHICH PRESIDENT ATTACHES PRIORITY. IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR GOCAR FLOATED (CLIFFORD JONES" RANCH PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY TURNED DOWN BY IBRD. THEY DID NOT PRESS ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, GIVEN OUR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LOOK AT

OTHER PROJECT IN LIVESTOCK AREA AND FURTHER EXPENSION
OF SEED PROJECT AT GRIMARI.

4. OVERALL WE CONSIDER VISIT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

WE HAVE LAUNCHED A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON A
WIDE RANGE OF PROJECT PROPOSALS WHICH, IF ULTIMATELY
APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED, WOULD RESULT IN THE EXPANSION
OF OUR PROGRAM TO LEVELS ANTICIPATED IN PARA. FOLLOW-ON
IS NOW ESSENTIAL. HIGHEST PRIORITY MUST BE SIGNATURE
OF OUHAM PROJECT. PROGRESS ON AIDSAT FOLLOW-ON I.E.,
LANDSAT AGREEMENT AND AERO-MAGNETIC SURVEY SHOULD ALSO
BE HIGH ON OUR LIST OF CONCERNS, AS MUST DETAILED
INVESTIGATION OF VARIOUS PIDS. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY GOING
TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED LEVEL OF AID ACTIVITY AND
RESOURCE TRANSFER. OUR PRINCIPAL TASK NOW IS TO MAINTAIN
TRANSFER MOMENTUM GENERATED BY GRIFFITH VISIT SO THAT
ZUR ASSISTANCE EFFORTS CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
TO OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT IS, THEREFORE,
ESSENTIAL THAT AID PROGRAM OFFICER BE ASSIGNED HERE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE EMBASSY URGENTLY NEEDED
BACKSTOPPING AND FOCAL POINT FOR OUR FOLLOW-ON EFFORTS.
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